

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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Appalling Results of Prohibition Repeal

America Increasingly Cursed With Integrated Sales, Liquor Advertising, Increased Consumption, Public Drunkenness, Alcoholic Women, Drinking Drivers, Augmented Crime, Teen-Age Hoodlums, Inadequate Tax Revenues, Prohibition Coming Back.

By Dr. Sam Morris
Zone 9, San Antonio, Texas

(A temperance address on NBC radio network, Sunday evening, October 27, 1957.)

Howdy, Neighbors.

We thank NBC Radio Network for selling us time for this World Temperance Sunday broadcast over every available outlet in America, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.

America had 13 years of National Prohibition. We have now had 24 years of relegalized liquor. I am speaking to you on the subject: Repeal Results.

Integrated Sales

The old saloon was a segregated business supported only by drink-



Dr. Sam Morris

ers. Bootleggers are under cover operators supported only by those who connive with them to violate the law. But repeal integrated the sale of alcoholic beverages with the necessities of life in cafes, filling stations, drug stores, department stores, grocery stores, taverns, on pullman trains and in air planes. But this integration of sales no more changed the nature of alcohol and its effects on society than painting a pump handle changes the water in a well or placing a rattlesnake in a flower bed neutralizes the poison in his fangs. It is still the same old habit-forming, narcotic, poisonous drug and will cause a drinker to wreck his car, waste his money,

lose his job, be rude and play the fool to the humiliation of his friends and loved ones.

Liquor Advertising

Repeal unleashed upon America a four hundred million dollar a year pro-drinking advertising blitz. Liquor billboards line our highways. Liquor neon signs light our city streets. Liquor advertising plasters our daily papers and national magazines. Radio and television pour into American homes a daily barrage of attractive music, stirring dramas, ear-catching jingles, beauty contests, baseball, football, prize fights, wrestling matches, bowling games and newscasts advertising, popularizing, promoting, glamourizing and glorifying the drinking of beverage alcohol. There is never a hint that its use has been the ruin of millions of people.

I think it is time for the public to hear the other side. That is why I bought this broadcast over NBC. We hope to follow with others. We hope you will encourage our plans by writing us immediately following the broadcast.

Increased Consumption

Repeal flung wide open the floodgates of increased liquor consumption. Clinton M. Hester, Washington Counsel for the United States Brewers Foundation, told a Congressional Committee holding hearings on a bill to outlaw liquor advertising, that the passage of the bill would reduce liquor sales in this country by at least fifty per cent. When I heard him say it I wanted to leap up and shout, "Amen! That's why we want the bill passed."

1934 was the first year of relegalized liquor sales. That year the American people drank an average of approximately eight gallons of liquor per person. They are today drinking an average of more than seventeen gallons of beverage alcohol per person each year. In round numbers this country drinks each year 150 million gallons of wine, 200 million gallons of distilled spirits, and 2 billion, 500 million gallons of beer.

"In Everything Give Thanks!"

'Mid sunshine, cloud or stormy days,
When hope abounds or care dismayed,
When trials press and toils increase
Let not thy faith in God decrease—
"In every thing give thanks."

All things we know shall work for good,
Nor would we change them if we could;
'Tis well if only He commands;
His promises will ever stand—
"In every thing give thanks."

He satisfies the longing heart,
He thwarts the tempter's cruel dart,
With goodness fills the hungry soul,
And helps us sing when billows roll.
"In every thing give thanks."

—Selected

The Presentation of First Fruits

By the late H. A. Ironside, Litt.D.

Long Pastor of the Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Illinois

A Thanksgiving Day Sermon

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."—Heb. 13:15,16.

Deuteronomy 26 was read as a scripture lesson. If our readers will open their Bibles to that chapter and keep it before them, they will follow the sermon with greater clearness.

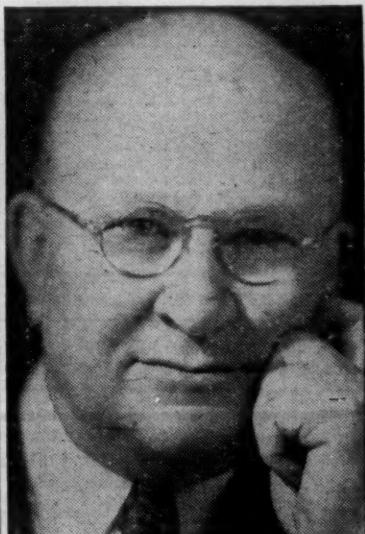
In the twenty-sixth chapter of Deuteronomy we have what undoubtedly gave rise to the Puritans' harvest home festival. It was Israel's national Thanksgiving Day and most suggestive of that which should occupy our hearts at this present time. You will notice the chapter is divided into two parts. In verses one to eleven, the people are seen bringing the first fruits to God and rejoicing before Him as they give thanks for all the mercies of the past year. In verses twelve to nineteen, the same people are seen ministering to the Levites, the strangers, the fatherless, and the widows, and to all who are poor and needy among them, and by these acts of consideration for their less fortunate fellow-men and for the servants of the Lord, who were largely dependent upon their bounty, we see evidences of grace working in their souls, and can understand something of what our own attitude ought to be when, blessed ourselves, we look upon a vast host who are suffering for the lack of what God has so graciously lavished upon us.

These two divisions of this great chapter answer to the two aspects of sacrifice brought before us in our text. In verse fifteen we have the sacrifice of praise to God; the fruit of lips that confess the name of Jesus. Whereas in verse sixteen we have the sacrifice of ministering to those in need; doing good and sharing with others what God has given to us.

I. The First Fruits of Our Lips, the Sacrifice of Praise to God

This sacrifice of praise can be presented to God only by those who are in happy relationship with Himself. None but redeemed people can come into His holy presence as worshipers. Worship is not merely the observance of some religious ceremony; neither does it consist in listening to a sermon nor in presenting our petitions in prayer. It is a great mistake to think of worship as the enjoyment of soulful and beautiful music. Carnal and even uncon-

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Dr. H. A. Ironside

THE BIBLE SAYS . . .

What the Bible Says About a Godly Attitude Toward Heresy

By G. Archer Weniger, D.D., Pastor
Foothill Boulevard Baptist Church
1530 Foothill Boulevard, Oakland 6, California

In these days of theological confusion and ecclesiastical compromise, what is the biblical position for an evangelical to assume toward heretics and false religious teachers? Are we to patronize them, associate with them, accept their sponsorship, increase their numbers, send them converts, add to their prestige, follow their leadership, identify our churches with them, and obliterate important biblical distinctions with them? The Bible's answer is clear.

1. Try them . . . I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world."
2. Mark them . . . Romans 16:17, "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Verkuyl says, "and to keep away from them."
3. Rebuke them . . . Titus 1:13, "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." Verkuyl, "Correct them sternly."
4. Have no fellowship . . . Ephesians 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Verkuyl says, "Expose them."
5. Withdraw thyself . . . II Thessalonians 3:6, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which ye received of us."
6. Receive them not . . . II John 10, 11, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed; For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." Verkuyl says, "Do not extend him your greeting." To our day false teachings are fostered by misplaced hospitality.
7. Have no company with him . . . II Thessalonians 3:14, "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." Berkeley Version says, "Do not get mixed up with him, so he may grow ashamed."
8. Reject them . . . Titus 3:10, "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition, reject."
9. Be ye separate . . . II Corinthians 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

Is Israel's Fig Tree Now Budding?

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."—Matt. 24:32, 33.

I. Is the Founding and Growth of the New Small State of Israel in Palestine Now the Prophesied "Budding of the Fig Tree" Mentioned By Jesus in the Text Above?

II. Is the Regathering of Israel Foretold in the Bible Now Taking Place?

III. Is the Nation Israel, Taking Up a Part of Palestine and Part of Jerusalem, a Sign of the Coming of Christ?

In a good Christian magazine, one department appears each month labeled, "The Budding of the Fig Tree," giving news or opinion or expositions of Scripture, on the thesis that the small nation of Jews, organized in May, 1948, and the development and events surrounding that group of Jews, are the prophesied "budding of the fig tree" of which Jesus spake. Strangely enough, many hold such views and think that the organization of a small nation of Jews called Israel, in Palestine, and the present gathering of Jews there is the restoration of Israel, the regathering of Israel so plainly prophesied in the Bible, and that this is a sign that the present age is about to end and that Jesus must come very soon.

A kindly, good man, a devoted servant of Christ and a Jewish missionary leader offers to THE SWORD OF THE LORD an article entitled, "The Revival of Israel—Is It of God?" and he attempts to prove that the prophesied regathering of Israel has taken place, that the prophecy is thus being fulfilled, and that the chain of events which are prophesied to surround the second coming of Christ and Christ's literal reign on earth have already begun.

These things are symptoms of a remarkable tendency among good Christians who are premillennial in belief, that is, those who look for Christ to come personally. It is a tendency to try to learn ahead of time the time of Christ's return. Jesus plainly said, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:32, 33). Yet people still try to prophesy approximately when Christ will return.

Jesus said most plainly and emphatically to the apostles, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7), relating to the time when He would "restore again the kingdom to Israel." Yet people still try to learn what God has said they cannot know. They presume to find signs to determine things that Jesus plainly said the Father has kept in His own power and are not for them to know!

The great interest in prophecy and widespread misunderstanding of the Scriptures on this matter leads us to try to answer, with



Dr. John R. Rice

Scriptures, the above three questions.

I. Is the Founding and Growth of the New Small State of Israel in Palestine Now the Prophesied "Budding of the Fig Tree" Mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24:32,33?

The answer is a positive and easily proven "NO!"

The Scripture in Matthew 24:32, 33 does not refer to the present time and does not refer to the Jews now in Palestine. In the sense of that Scripture, the fig tree is not now budding. That we will prove simply by beginning earlier in the same chapter. Please read with me from that same twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, verses 29-33.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall

not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

When will the events mentioned in this Scripture occur? The Scripture above in verse 29 tells us plainly they will occur "immediately after the tribulation of those days."

The "tribulation" in the Bible is sometimes called the "Great Tribulation." It is also called "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7).

In Daniel, chapter 9, seventy weeks of Jewish history are prophesied. We are told that sixty-nine of these weeks of years would be fulfilled up to the coming of the Messiah the Prince (verse 25). Then we are told of a "prince that shall come," evidently the Antichrist. He will make a covenant with some Jews for one week of years. In the midst of the week, that is, after 3½ years, he will commit the "abomination of desolation." And the last half of the week of years, which is variously named as 3½ years or 42 months or 1,260 days, will be the "Great Tribulation."

I think it is very clear from many Scriptures that the rapture, with Christ catching up to meet Him in the air all the saved and raising the Christian dead, is the next thing on God's program. The Antichrist, the Man of Sin, cannot be revealed until that time, as I understand II Thessalonians 2:3 and other Scriptures. At any rate, it is clear that after the Antichrist rules in great terror and persecution and great plagues come upon the earth, then Christ Himself shall return with saints and angels to set up His kingdom on earth, will fight the Battle of Armageddon, destroy His enemies, judge the nations, will regather every Jew in the world, purge out the rebels, and establish His kingdom on David's throne.

Now summarizing briefly, according to verse 29 above, from Matthew 24, it becomes clear that the events mentioned in this passage must occur "after the tribulation of those days." It is not now after the tribulation, so the events mentioned are not now happening, and the "sign of the fig tree" mentioned here is not now occurring.

So the little nation of Israel, with less than a million people who have gone back to Palestine and, by trickery, by seizing the property of Arabs, sometimes by murder, as well as by hard work and politics, have founded a nation of Jews called Israel—that is not the prophesied "budding of the fig tree" of which Jesus spoke.

What are the events which constitute the budding of the fig tree?

Look at the Scriptures above. From verse 29 we see great natural catastrophes. "The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

September 30-October 13 the Summersville Baptist Church, Summersville, West Virginia, experienced real revival under the preaching of **EVANGELIST JAKE BOGGS** of P. O. Box 41, Charleston, West Virginia. No report was given of the number saved, but the pastor, Rev. L. Bruce Cooper, writes that "some 25 united with the church by baptism and by letter. Many more came forward for rededication of their lives for Christ and the church. Record crowds came, which resulted in the largest congregation being assembled in our new church building since it has been built. I believe the meeting had much to do with the calling off of the local option election, set by the Town Council for October 23 to seek to obtain a liquor store for Summersville." The pastor heartily commends the tireless work of the evangelist.

The St. John's E. U. B. Church in Centre Hall, "In spite of a flu epidemic, a very busy season for everybody, and bitter opposition by Satan, souls were saved and the kingdom of God advanced in the community," writes Rev. L. W. Bartges, pastor. The evangelist may be addressed at 47 Pinevale Avenue, Reading, Massachusetts.

The Glendale Baptist Church of Vero Beach, Florida, closed a seven days' meeting October 27 with **EVANGELIST HUGH BEASLEY** (P. O. Box 342, Mims, Florida) doing the preaching. The pastor, Rev. James L. Webb, reports 53 came forward making a profession of faith, and asking to follow the Lord in baptism. He further states that the evangelist "preaches against sin, fights modernism, and preaches separation. Hugh has a burning desire for the lost."

Before his conversion in 1949, the evangelist owned and played in a dance band for 18 years, and was an alcoholic when the Lord saved him. For seven years he pastored the Mims Baptist Church in Mims, Florida, but now is in full-time evangelism.

EVANGELIST DON WILSON of Greenville, South Carolina, recently held an evangelistic campaign in the Bible Missionary Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. There were 11 decisions for Christ, and 2 rededications, reports interim pastor, Gene Gurganus. He also had many fine words of commendation for the evangelist.

EVANGELIST BOB SUMNER, Pana, Illinois, arrived in Des Moines, Iowa, in the midst of the flu epidemic when at least a third of the membership of Grandview Park Baptist Church was in bed with the flu. In spite of this, the nightly attendance averaged 200 to 300, with over 700 each Sunday night. Pastor Carl E. Elgena reports people saved every night but one. He states: "Folks here tell me they cannot remember ever having as many results in a series of meetings like this. There were at least 40 decisions for Christ, 24 additions for baptism, and 26 who came as Christians to get things straightened out between them and the Lord. I know of some who threw their tobacco away! One thing very evident in Mr. Sumner's preaching was his command of the Scriptures. His sermons were saturated with the Bible. I was also impressed with the fact that he is not a lazy evangelist. He comes to work with the pastor. He insists upon a daily calling program. Several were led to Christ during the day in this calling program."

We are grateful for this fine meeting by our former associate editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, now contributing editor. He visited us in Wheaton a few days before going to Des Moines, to work on special projects for THE SWORD.

EVANGELIST AND MRS. FRANK HARPELL closed October 27 their eighth evangelistic campaign with the Centre Hall-Spring Mills Charge (E. U. B. Churches) in Centre Co., Pennsylvania. It was the third time at

Those catastrophes in nature have not occurred.

Verse 30 tells us, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven." The word

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Other pastors interested in securing the services of Evangelist Joe Rice, or any other man on the Sword Staff of Evangelists, may write to

Dr. Bill Rice, Director
214 West Wesley Street
Wheaton, Illinois



Pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

The Mark of the Beast, or, the Work of the Unholy Trinity

CHAPTER 6

Read Revelation 13.

It is exceedingly easy to make a lot of guesses and speculations on matters of prophecy. Many have done so and have likewise brought into disrepute the teaching of the second coming and related events. Therefore, we will continue to follow carefully the Word of God.

In the last message we discussed briefly the coming Antichrist, his characteristics, and his work. We noted that John said, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time" (I John 2:18).

There are many antichrists in the world today. All movements and men against our Saviour are antichrists. But let us notice that there is coming an Antichrist. The Antichrist will be a person. He will be a man just as Christ was a man. When the Word of God speaks of the Antichrist, the masculine pronoun "he" is used.

When will this Antichrist appear? He will appear when the church has been raptured and the Holy Spirit has been taken away.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming"—II Thess. 2:7, 8.

After the Christians have been raptured and the Spirit taken, the tribulation will begin upon the earth. The tribulation is that period of time when judgments are sent by God upon a Christ-rejecting world. The terrible plagues which will come upon the earth are described in Revelation 6 to 18. In the forefront during the tribulation time there will be three unholy persons. All three of them are mentioned in Revelation 13.

I. The Dragon

"And the dragon gave him his power . . . And they worshipped



Dr. Lee Roberson

the dragon which gave power unto the beast."—vss. 2, 4.

This dragon is none other than old Satan. He is the enemy of our Christ. All of sin and sorrow we see today is because of him. All that will come upon the earth will be because of him. In the tribulation Satan will make his last stand and will endeavor to get control of the earth. He will choose a man to be his representative. He will give to this person great power. We know him as the Antichrist.

The Devil is God's enemy.

The Devil is every Christian's enemy.

The Devil is the enemy of all righteousness.

The Devil is the author of sin, suffering, and death.

Though Satan has great power, Christians can defeat him today. James says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,

and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7). Christ showed us the way when He resisted the temptation of Satan in the wilderness. He won by the sword of the Spirit. We must battle and win in the same way.

The end of Satan is plainly given in the Holy Scriptures. First, we find that he will be bound during the kingdom age. This is given in Revelation 20:1-3:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

The eternal doom of Satan is in Revelation 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

The Devil does not reign in Hell as a king. He will be tormented in Hell just as the others who reject the Saviour.

II. The Beast

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."—Rev. 13:1.

This is the one to whom the Devil gives power and authority. This beast is the Antichrist.

Note the origin of the beast. He will rise up out of the sea. The sea is typical of the Gentile nations. The particular sea in mind is doubtless the Mediterranean for it is the center, so to speak, of the former Roman Empire. The ten horns are a further mark of identification, showing that the Roman Empire is referred to, not as it has been during its entire existence, but as it shall be known in its last form. The seven heads doubtless symbolize the different forms of government in which the Roman Empire has existed from its beginning to the end.

Revelation 13:3 speaks of the restoration of the Roman Empire when it will be a federated empire of ten kingdoms, ruled over by the beast. This beast will be a warlike person, for the world will say, "Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" He will be a blasphemer. "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." The Antichrist will be an atheist. He will set himself above all that is called God and will cause the people to worship him.

The beast as set before us in Revelation 13 is the dragon's masterpiece of delusion. Satan has always wanted people to worship him, and now through the work of the beast they do so, for verse 4 says, "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast."

III. The False Prophet

This is the third member of the unholy trinity—Satan, the beast, the false prophet.

The false prophet will be a man, just as the beast. This is proven by the doom of the false prophet as given in Revelation 19:20. False systems or empires are dealt with by God on earth, but persons are cast into the lake of fire.

The first beast came from the sea. This second beast or false prophet comes up out of the earth. If the sea symbolizes the Gentile nations, the earth possibly symbolizes Israel. This false prophet, as he is called, may be a Jew, while the beast before whom he exercises his power may be a Gentile.

The first beast will be a dictator and a world ruler. This second beast will be something of a religious leader and will perform wonders and cause the people to worship the beast. The main business of the false prophet is

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Subscriptions for Christmas Why?

Reasons Why Readers Should Send as Many Subscriptions as Possible to THE SWORD OF THE LORD During This Pre-Christmas Offer of Six Yearly Subscriptions for \$10 With Big \$3 Novel, SEEKING A CITY, Free

We hope our subscribers will send a flood of subscriptions, new and renewal, perhaps 25,000 subscriptions, before Christmas and here are reasons why we believe readers ought to do that. Now, we realize it is a serious and solemn matter to say that people are under solemn obligation of duty to do a certain thing, that they ought to do it. So we give our sincere reasons why we believe readers should and will send in a flood of subscriptions for Christmas during this remarkable special offer.

1. The Best Saving on Your Own Renewal

You may renew your own subscription six years for \$10 and get free the new \$3 novel of 19 chapters, *Seeking a City*. Or you may count one or two or three of the years of subscriptions as renewals for yourself and send the other subscriptions to someone else. In any case, note what a wonderful saving! If you count the book worth \$3 (and it sells for that price in bookstores all over America, just published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids), then that means that your six yearly subscriptions cost only \$7! What a saving!

Or if you count six subscriptions for \$10 as only \$1.66 per year, then you get the big \$3 book of 19 chapters free at no cost, postpaid! You can't beat this offer for renewing your own subscription. It is the best saving we know how to give you. You ought to send your own renewal subscription for several years perhaps along with subscriptions for others.

2. Subscriptions Make Thoughtful, Christ-Honoring, Reverent Gifts for Loved Ones and Friends

Worldly and wicked people everywhere make Christmas a time of revelry, drunkenness—a secular Christmas without God! Don't you think Christians ought to honor Christ at Christmas time? Should not your Christmas gifts picture not only your love but your Christian convictions and your spiritual interest in those you love? What could be a better Christmas gift than one which will come in fifty-two issues through the whole year, will point to Christ, and remind every recipient of your love and thoughtfulness? And where could you get respectable and serious Christmas gifts so inexpensively, six subscriptions for \$10, plus an extra beautiful gift, the novel, *Seeking a City*?

We suggest that you remember Christ and your Christian testimony this Christmas and make Christmas gifts to indicate that you are a Christian and are interested in Christian matters.

Even to those to whom you might give some more expensive gift, what a good testimony it would be to give them also THE SWORD OF THE LORD for one year or more!

Think of sending a greatly desired and worshipable Christmas gift at this low price, where you can buy six yearly subscriptions and get the big \$3 Christian novel free for only \$10! Better make out a big list and send subscriptions and books to as many as you find would be proper.

3. Send Subscriptions to Be a Blessing

More people are saved through THE SWORD OF THE LORD than through any other Christian magazine in America, and probably more than through any other half-dozen Christian magazines in America! Why not send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to lost people who need Christ? Many a Chris-

tian has won a lost brother or neighbor by sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD and following it with prayer.

You may think that the plain, sharp preaching against sin, the exposure of modernism and false cults in THE SWORD would keep it from winning souls. But actually the opposite is true. Billy Sunday knew this and that is why there were so many remarkable conversions in his ministry. Dr. R. A. Torrey knew this, and so he won more infidels and notoriously wicked characters than nearly any evangelist on the American scene. You could send a dozen subscriptions to magazines which never preach against sin, which never oppose modernism, which never discuss controversies, and you would not get as many people saved as if you sent simply THE SWORD OF THE LORD! On this matter figures do

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HALF CURED, AND THEN THE DRUG RAN OUT

"Dear Ones: In my profound distress I have plucked up the courage to write you, praying that God will open your heart to my desperate cry and that you will come to my rescue. I am a poor, orphaned girl who has been treated for 5 years at the sanitarium in Athens. My health grew worse and worse until I was brought to the brink of despair. I hardly knew what to do or what lay ahead of me. The only thing I was quite sure of was that every day I got nearer to the end.

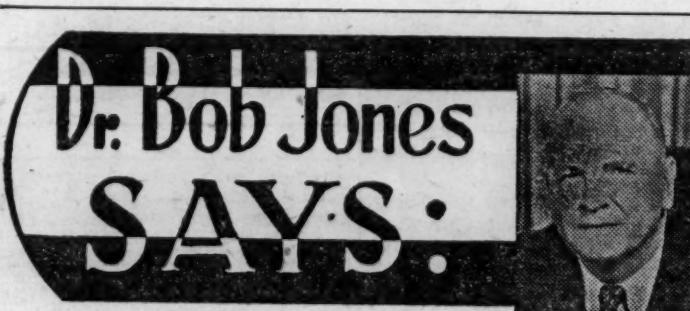
"Then, four months ago, they began to treat me with Seromycin sent by the American Mission to Greeks, and the results were really wonderful. Although the doctors had given up hope of my recovery, within 3 months I felt almost well. But my treatment was not completed because the supply of the drug ran out. The doctors told us they could continue to give the medicine only to those who were able to buy it. I was the only one here, the poorest of all, who couldn't afford this medicine. Oh, the feeling of disappointment that filled my heart as I realized that my hopes for a steady recovery were ruined! In my despair I thought of writing you to ask for this precious medicine upon which my whole life depends. Please do help me in any way God may lead you to. Yours respectfully, Despina Pozapalidou."

What a cruel stroke of fate, to see recovery just within your grasp and not be able to reach it. Must we tell this dear girl, and many others in a similar plight, she will just have to become resigned to her lot, or will you enable us to send her the miracle-working drug that means life to her frail body? As God lays it upon your heart, will you not give whatever you can and trust Him to multiply it through others? We want to send Despina a Greek Bible too, to bring her to the Saviour who can give her eternal life. Pray for her, and send your gift today to the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zodhiates, General Secretary, Dept. SL, P. O. Box 423, New York 36, N. Y. (In Canada: 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto 7, Ont.)

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Modern education is producing comparatively few scholars, but it is creating millions of mind worshippers. Bob Jones University in the fields of its emphasis has as high academic standards as any other educational institution anywhere in America; but since it is a Christian institution, it endeavors to exalt Jesus Christ to first place and is sending out into many parts of the world well-trained, orthodox, born-again, soul-winning Christians. Students in Bob Jones University are taught to subordinate the human intellect to the Word of God and not subordinate the Word of God to the human intellect. We know that the natural mind is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. Christian education may comb the hair, powder the nose, press the pants, and shine the shoes even of unregenerated young people;

but the only permanent good is the result of regenerating grace in the hearts of people. We are asking you Christian people who are interested in the type of work Bob Jones University is doing to help us—first, by praying daily and earnestly for the institution; and second, by investing some of the money the Lord has given you in the work of the University. On the basis of the work that Bob Jones University has accomplished under God, we feel we have a right to ask for your financial support; and we believe you Christian people will be glad to co-operate with the institution financially. Thank you, and the Lord bless you.

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Incidents and Illustrations

By

Evangelist Robert L. Sumner

Contributing Editor

Gold, Glamour, Glory Gone!

Peggy Hopkins Joyce is dead! This famed glamour girl of the 1920's, whom the Associated Press described as the "dazzling blond Ziegfeld Follies girl whose beauty won her a series of millionaire husbands," died recently of cancer. In her day she had all that the human heart could desire, apparently, as a waiting world seemed to be begging to eat from her hand. Men and money were always at her disposal. She claimed to have been engaged fifty times and it was a matter of record that she had married six different times. The press release at the time of her death said of these marriages: "She emerged from them with substantial bank

accounts and jewel-filled safe deposit boxes." But all of her possessions apparently failed to bring her real joy or satisfying peace as her multiple marriages clearly indicate.

Whatever the case, Peggy Hopkins Joyce has left it all. As we are told in Psalm 49:16, 17, "Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him." How much better to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:20).

The Greatest Honor

When Dr. Selman Waksman, the co-discoverer of streptomycin, was in Stockholm, Sweden, to receive the 1952 Nobel Prize for medicine from King Gustav Adolf, he had two visitors who greatly warmed his heart. A Swedish engineer and his little daughter called at his hotel and the child gave Waksman five carnations, one flower for each year of her life made possible by streptomycin. The father explained that five years previously she had been stricken with meningitis. Just as doctors were giving up hope for her recovery, discovery of streptomycin reached Sweden and her life was spared. The great scientist, who was noticeably moved, later remarked to the press: "I consider this a greater honor than receiving the Nobel Prize." What a fitting reward for a worthy scientist!

Yet how tame the thrill of that truly blessed experience as compared with when the faithful servant of the Saviour stands before Him at the judgment seat of Christ and hears, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21, 23).

Happy Pills

More and more Americans are gulping down tranquilizer pills in a frantic effort to escape tension and free themselves from anxiety. These pills have been billed as a sure way to beat the heavy tensions of our atomic age living without the dangerous aftereffects of habit-forming narcotic drugs. Although tranquilizers first appeared only about three years ago, they are now second only to anchomycin (an antibiotic) in the number of prescriptions written in the United States.

But Dr. Keith F. Killam, a Los Angeles authority on the effect of tranquilizers on the brain, says: "These things are too potent to be messing around with over-the-counter sales." Killam went on to say, "Counting on tranquilizers is like driving a car without a clutch pedal—pretty soon you don't want to go back to a car with a clutch pedal."

This is just another of man's futile endeavors to find peace apart from the Prince of Peace. A Christian who walks with God certainly would not need the crutch of a tranquilizer pill. Does not Philippians 4:7 guarantee to every Christian who will by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make his request known unto God: "and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"? I think, too, of that wonderfully sweet promise in Psalm 127:2, "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." What a "so great

THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

This morning a young minister came to see me. He told me how he, as a student in Moody Bible Institute, first saw copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and borrowed them again and again to read. Now out of school, he has subscribed for two years and is blessed by THE SWORD OF THE LORD and his whole ministry colored by it.

Three days ago two ministers sat in my office, visiting from a neighboring town. One is a college graduate, the other a seminary graduate. Both came to me for counsel because they were distressed about modernism in their denomination and did not know where to go but to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, which has become to them a constant source of information and spiritual leadership.

Three days ago I had a letter from an old retired preacher, who for many years was one of the most useful men of God in the South. Now he writes that he has nearly lost his eyesight, cannot read the print in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and struggles with a large-print Bible. But for years he subscribed for THE SWORD OF THE LORD, prayed for it, and supported it. When his active ministry tapered off, it was still a great joy for him to read THE SWORD OF THE LORD. And there are multitudes of retired ministers on small income, struggling to make ends meet, who yet want THE SWORD. A letter from the British West Indies and one from India tell the same story. Will you help us send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to needy and hungry souls, who will be blessed and bless others, through our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund? Your gift to the M & M. Fund will be properly acknowledged and a receipt sent from this nonprofit corporation, the Sword of the Lord Foundation.

Save on Income Tax

We draw near the close of the year. Soon you will be making out an income tax report for 1957. Thousands of readers would do well to consider whether they might not better give as largely as possible to this nonprofit Christian work, for Jesus, rather than pay the money into the Federal Government. Remember that the Government allows as much as 30% of income to be given to nonprofit, philanthropic, and Christian work, provided 20% of it goes to a church or a religious nonprofit corporation. The Sword of the Lord is such a recognized nonprofit foundation. Gifts to the Sword of the Lord Foundation may be deducted from taxable income. The Government encourages you to give generously to such causes, and what you give you are not required to pay taxes on. In effect, it means you can give for the spread of the Gospel instead of giving wholly to an extravagant Federal Government.

salvation" this is whereby even a good night's rest is included within its scope for that child of God who walks with Him and will claim His promise!

America Goes to Church

Approximately one out of every three Americans attend church or synagogue regularly according to the latest Gallup Poll. This is an increase of 11 per cent in the last 7 years for adults attending worship services. Most of the gain has been achieved during the past two years. In late 1955 there were 49,600,000 attending services regularly, while so far this year Gallup reports 52,586,610 faithful Americans. Unfortunately many of the churches and all the synagogues deny and scorn Jesus Christ as Virgin-born Saviour, and multitudes of church-goers are unconverted lost sinners.

Evangelist Sumner may be seen and heard: Thru November 24:
Grace Gospel Church
W. 12th & Adams
Huntington, West Virginia
Nov. 26 - Dec. 8:
First Baptist Church
Maine, New York

For every gift to the Sword of the Lord, to our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund, to our world-wide Free Literature Fund, to our Building Fund, or to our General Fund, we will send a receipt to certify your gift.

What you do, do for Jesus' sake and to glorify His name. But do what you can before the first of the year, to save on your income tax. Address the Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

Is It Our Burden Alone?

For twenty-three years I have edited THE SWORD OF THE LORD. For twenty-three years this labor, this responsibility, this spiritual burden has been mine without salary or profit. It has been wholly a labor of love, for Jesus' sake. Often in the deepest poverty, often taking abuse and misunderstanding which comes naturally to those who attack sin, modernism, and denominational overlordship, always toiling to the limit of strength, we have carried this burden. A few office workers have stayed with us through the years. Others have come and gone. Thousands of friends have loved THE SWORD. Many others have been fickle—today they are for us and tomorrow they will be against us. Today they stand true to Christ and the Bible, but tomorrow a popular figure arises and they follow off in idolatry over some man and forget the principles involved.

A few office workers have stayed faithfully with us through the years, as others came and went. A few friends have backed us up year after year, praying, sending subscriptions, and promoting THE SWORD with others. Some were our friends and were against modernism until the modernism happened to be in their own denomination. Some were for separation until it came to some favorite worldliness.

Through the years I think I may honestly say I have not wavered on any of the great essentials for which THE SWORD OF THE LORD was founded. Check the front pages of THE SWORD for the twenty-three years of its ministry. You will find that always THE SWORD has professed to be for the verbal inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His blood atonement, His bodily resurrection, and such matters. And always it has openly professed to be against modernism, worldliness, and formalism. And we have practiced what we preached.

For many years 10% of the retail value of my books and pamphlets sold around the world has not come, as the author's royalty, to me, as it comes to other authors. Instead, we have used it in the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to preachers, ministerial students, foreign missionaries, shut-ins, to national Christian workers on the foreign field, etc. I have taken no pay for articles and sermons written, no commission on subscriptions, no salary as editor, no royalty on books. I have lived on love offerings given voluntarily by God's people in my busy evangelistic ministry.

My burden has been unceasing. I have not had the time for vacations that other men have. I must say frankly that I did not want the vacations and found my heart's delight in this blessed work of getting out the Gospel!

Oh, the burden God has given me to revive the saints, to stir revival fires! Oh, the burden God has given for the inspiration of preachers, for safeguarding them from modernism and false cults, for stirring them to revival and soul winning! Oh, the wholehearted and holy joy in the Word of God to teach it and preach it and spread it! This burden is of God. I do not shrink from it, though it makes me tremble, and sometimes seems heavier than I can carry. I hope the dear Lord will take me home before He ever lets me lose the holy concern and urgency about getting out the Gospel, defending the faith, stirring revival, winning souls.

But is this my burden alone? Does not every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD have the same call to get out the Gospel, to win souls, to defend the faith, to stir

revival fires? Why should I be concerned to spread the Gospel and spend myself and toil beyond human strength and give all I can give and yet carry this burden alone?

The Scripture says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." I ask that 10,000 readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD today will get under this burden. In Jesus' name, send as many subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD as you can now, this week! I beg you to tell me frankly that you will help carry this burden to bring revival, to defend the faith, to win souls, to stir preachers. Say so, if you will, in a letter, but in Jesus' name do something about it! Prove your faith by your works—by sending subscriptions.

You will remember that just now you may send six yearly subscriptions, either new or renewal, for only \$10 (Canadian and foreign subscriptions need 50c more per year for extra postage). And for each six subscriptions sent for \$10 we will send free, postpaid, the \$3 book of 19 chapters, the novel, *Seeking a City*, the stirring, scriptural, historical, inspiring tale of Abraham and Sarah and Isaac, of the time ten short generations after the flood!

I beg you, do not leave this burden for me to carry alone. I wait for your letters and subscriptions. I earnestly depend upon your prayers. Address the Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

The Telltale Tongue

Justin Martyr once said: "By examining the tongue of a patient, physicians find out the disease of the body, and philosophies of the mind." The directions that come with a well-known brand of fountain pen say, "When this pen runs too freely it is a sign that it is nearly empty." Is there an application here for us, when our tongues get to running too freely?

—Sunday School Times

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"Seeking a City"

A New Novel by the Editor

Reviewed by Evangelist Robert L. Sumner

Here is one of the most spiritually rewarding, personally profitable novels to be published in the last decade. Yet *Seeking a City* is more than a novel, it is an enlightening Bible course, a biographical sketch and a character study all rolled into one compact volume. The reader will come away from this refreshingly different book with a much deeper insight into the character of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac. Even Lot, Rebekah, Hagar, Ishmael and Eliezer will take on new significance and be studied more closely after the reader has finished this thrilling novel with its tender mingling of romance and redemption.



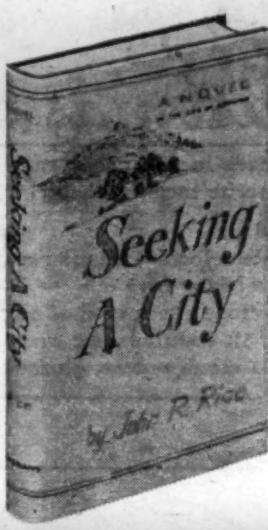
Sumner

The author says he wrote the first draft of this book in "five pressure-filled days." That may be true, but a half century of close communion with God and constant meditation in the law of the Lord have gone into the background, providing a wealth of information about the times and customs of Abraham's day. Writing a novel about Bible characters is always a ticklish job, but Dr. Rice approaches his subject with a humble reverence. Exact Bible wording is used in conversations where the communion is recorded in the Bible. He is amazingly accurate in painting pen pictures of the Biblical record, considering the detail into which he goes. As a matter of fact, the reader may be surprised at several statements in the book, but when he takes the time and trouble to check, he will find the author completely correct in every point. The footnotes throughout the novel give detailed explanation and reference to the narrative enhance its educational value tremendously.

The book is very interesting. I read it through at one sitting and found it not at all tiring. This is saying quite a bit since the author writes under a tremendous handicap for any novelist—the reader knows in advance how it will turn out—yet deep interest is maintained chapter after chapter. Even the detail is woven into the fabric of the story so masterfully it does not hinder readability. You will thrill at the charm in the account about the awakening of Abram's love for his half-sister, Sarai, the various testings which Abram faced in his quest to be a friend of God, the lapse of faith when Sarai gave Abram Hagar to wife, the joy in the miraculous birth of Isaac, whose name means "laughter," and the thrilling picture of the coming Christ's crucifixion and resurrection at Calvary as portrayed in the offering of Isaac. There are no dull chapters in this book!

Seeking a City will be of inestimable value for the wealth of information it contains about the times and customs in Abraham's day. However, the thrilling review of prophetic lore showing convincingly how Abraham and Sarah knew about "the Seed of the woman" will surely strengthen the faith of one and all in Biblical inspiration. Dr. Rice has proven that the entire story of redemption was highlighted for Abraham in type, symbol and word in a manner that could not be accidental. In like manner, the story of salvation is set forth clearly in the volume, making it an ideal book to place in the hands of unsaved friends and loved ones. It is a book they will read with interest, delight and conviction.

Some of you, perhaps, like this reviewer before he read the manuscript, may raise an arched eyebrow upon learning that Dr. Rice has entered the novel field, feeling that he may be out of his



depth. My only comment for the present is that the critic will be in for a real surprise when he reads *Seeking a City*!

Seeking a City is a lovely cloth-bound volume with 19 chapters, now being published by Eerdmans and released November 15. It sells for \$3.00 per copy. IT IS READY NOW!

Free With Six Subscriptions at Special Price

However, for a limited time during THE SWORD OF THE LORD's Christmas subscription campaign, this lovely Christian novel about Abraham and Sarah, *Seeking a City*, will be given free with six subscriptions, new or renewal, at a special price of six subscriptions for \$10.

As you know, the regular subscription price for THE SWORD OF THE LORD is \$2.50 per year. This big, trustworthy, twelve-page paper with three and four full-length gospel messages every week, plus many other features, is a bargain at the regular price. However, during the Christmas subscription campaign, you can have six subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, plus the lovely new novel, *Seeking a City*, an \$18 value, for only \$10. Here is an opportunity for you to give gifts that will last the year around, do real spiritual good, and at the same time get yourself a lovely Christmas present in the form of Dr. Rice's new book.

For subscriptions out of the United States you must, of course, add an extra 50¢ for each one to cover the additional postage expense involved. For Canadian and other foreign subscriptions, the six subs would cost \$13.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD will mail an announcement to the recipient of every gift subscription. That is, if you send in six subscriptions to be used as Christmas gifts, we will send a card to each of the six announcing that they are to receive the paper for a full year as a gift from you. There is no limit to how many subscriptions you can send in or how many free copies of the novel, *Seeking a City*, you may receive as long as you send in six subscriptions and \$10 for each book. Both the subscriptions and the books will make ideal gifts for your friends, saved or lost.

Don't wait! Make out your list of gift subscriptions right away. Print clearly the names and addresses where you want the paper sent. Let us know where you want the free novel, *Seeking a City*, sent, either to you or someone else. Enclose payment for the subscriptions, preferably check or money order. Mail cash at your own risk, of course.

Send the subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

. . . Prohibition Repeal

(Continued from page 1)

arrests annually about 40,000 drunks, San Francisco about 45,000, and Los Angeles arrests as many as 100,000 in a year. Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, Atlanta, New Orleans, Kansas City, Denver—the same problem. Reliable authorities tell us we now have in this country nearly 5 million hopeless, helpless, habitual drunkards. The number grows with every passing month. These alcoholics jam our hospitals, pack our city jails, clog our city courts, and burden our public relief agencies.

Alcoholic Women

Repeal has debased American women by alcoholism. Twenty-five years ago one out of every eight known alcoholics was a woman. Today the number is one out of four. An article in *Reader's Digest* for April 1956 informs us that alcoholism among men has risen forty-five per cent and among women fifty-two per cent since 1940.

While a member of the staff of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Dr. Robert V. Seliger wrote an article for the *Woman's Home Companion* on drinking women.

"In my waiting room every afternoon there is a group of tragic women. They range in age from 18 to 70. Some wear mink coats; some are obviously poor. Mothers and professional women, teachers, nurses, and business girls. But each has the same tragedy . . . alcoholism. All over the United States more and more women are becoming victims of alcoholism."

If Jesus bore the cross and died on it for me, ought I not be willing to take it up for Him? —D. L. Moody

He went on to write that 30 to 40 out of every 100 may be helped back to health but, "the others are doomed more certainly than if they had cancer."

Drinking Drivers

Repeal recruited an army of drinking drivers who race our streets and highways killing and maiming men, women and children in a slaughter that is worse than war.

Dr. Herman A. Heise, a Milwaukee physician and expert on the effects of alcohol on driving ability, told a joint meeting of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois State Medical Society recently that one ounce of alcohol increases a driver's chance for accident by 1000 per cent and that if alcohol could be divorced from driving, possibly half of the 40,000 people doomed to die each year in traffic accidents would live and another half million would be spared painful and crippling injuries caused in traffic accidents.

Augmented Crime

Repeal has greatly augmented crime in America. According to FBI reports we are now in the greatest crime wave of our history. Last year more than two and one-half million major crimes were committed in this country. It was an increase of 13.3 per cent over the year before and a 40 per cent increase over 1946. It grows worse with every passing month.

U. S. News and World Report for April 19, 1957, tells us that 60 per cent of the arrests for all causes in U. S. cities and towns are hauled in annually on charges associated with excessive drinking: drunkenness, drunken driving, disorderly conduct and vagrancy.

Senator Estes Kefauver, after a nationwide series of televised hearings on crime, wrote a book entitled *Crime in America*. On page 21 he states: "Political corruption in America seems to have sunk to a new low . . . the disrepute roll of criminals and politicians compiled by the Senate Crime Committee was a sordid

and sickening document." He further states on page 163: "Our own investigation established that all the major distillers and certain large breweries have granted franchises to hoodlums, including some in the top ranks of organized crime."

Teen-Age Hoodlums

Repeal has spawned a swarm of teen-age hoodlums. Last year the teen-age population in America increased 3 per cent. Teenage crime increased 17.3 per cent. Forty-six per cent of the two and one-half million major crimes last year were committed by youngsters under 18 years of age. They constituted 24.7 per cent of the arrests for robbery, 43.9 per cent of the arrests for receiving stolen goods, 50.4 per cent of larceny arrests, 53.9 per cent of burglary arrests and 66.4 per cent of arrests for stolen cars. Teen-age fights, gangs, killings, and gruesome deeds form constant newspaper headlines across the nation. You can't blame today's lawless youth on prohibition. They are repeal babies. About 90 per cent of this juvenile crime is associated, directly or indirectly, with liquor dives, beer joints and drinking.

Repeal Revenues

"But," someone asks, "what about liquor tax revenues?"

The traffic pays about three billion dollars each year to local, state and federal taxes. Crime caused by it each year costs twice that much. Industrial accidents, inefficiency and absenteeism caused by it costs the country another billion dollars. Property damages and liability losses in traffic accidents caused by drinking drivers cost the American car owners another billion dollars each year. That's why I originated and pioneered in this country lower cost car insurance for total abstainers that has saved them millions of dollars on their car insurance. Hospitalization and relief resulting from drink is likewise enormous. The public deficit from liquor is far greater than the public income.

In Pontiac, Michigan, a survey revealed that while the city was collecting \$17,000 a year in liquor taxes it was costing \$250,000 a year in crime, traffic accidents, dependent families, hospital cases and relief resulting from liquor drinking.

In Massachusetts a legislative committee survey reported in 1945 that while the flow of liquor in the state produced 13 million dollars in liquor revenues it was costing the state 60 million dollars each year in traffic accidents, crime, industrial losses and public relief resulting from the liquor.

In 1950 the Public Health Director of California reported that while the state was collecting 24 and one-half million dollars in liquor revenues it was costing the state 280 million dollars to cope with the evil results from drinking that liquor.

That's the answer to your liquor tax revenue argument.

Repeal Found Wanting

Integrated liquor sales, obtrusive liquor advertising, increased liquor consumption, growing public drunkenness, increasing numbers of alcoholic women, marauding drinking drivers, swarming teen-age hoodlums, augmented crime, economic loss—these are repeat results. Worse still are the broken homes, human degradation, broken hearts, ruined lives, and spiritual loss.

Repeal has been weighed and found wanting.

Returning Prohibition

Prohibition is coming back. In Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Ohio and Illinois, there are thousands of voting precincts, towns, townships, and districts under prohibition by local option. Arkansas has 39 dry counties, Alabama 48, North Carolina 49, Mississippi 53, Georgia 64, Kentucky 87, and Texas 142 dry counties under local option prohibition where you cannot buy a drop of legal beer, wine or whisky.

Oak Cliff, consisting of 90 square miles in the city of Dallas,

with 65,000 qualified voters, voted bone dry recently and according to Deputy Chief of Police O. P. Wright, it brought a rapid decrease in crime in that area.

Recently I spoke in Bowling Green, Kentucky. My address was broadcasted over both local radio stations. The next day the city and county voted local option prohibition and outlawed 28 whisky stores and 90 beer joints.

Oklahoma, which already outlawed hard liquor sales state wide, will vote December 3 in a statewide election on local option for beer sales.

Petitions are now being circulated in South Dakota calling for a state-wide vote on the liquor issue. Temperance forces there are led by Ray Rushing, a former associate and personal friend of mine. Ray Rushing saw over 400 days of actual combat in 28 months of World War II service with the 36 Infantry Division. He was wounded twice and spent 120 days in one stretch at the front without relief. He isn't afraid to fight. He loves God and hates the liquor traffic.

So neighbors, run up your flag. Join the fray. Write me that letter immediately. Tell me the station over which you heard this talk or the paper in which you read it, and how many are in your group. I am desperately anxious to obtain that information. It will provide us with a coverage check. Send your letters to me personally, Sam Morris, Zone 9, San Antonio, Texas. We will reward your cooperation by mailing you a copy of this talk.

Goodby, Neighbors.

A GOOD DINNER FOR ONCE!

"One day we went to a village where we reached many persons and whole families with the Gospel," writes our missionary Emanuel from Greece. "Among them was the family of George Kaligannis. He, his wife, his mother-in-law and their 7 children—all under 12 years old—live in a one-room wooden hut. He suffers from paralysis and his mother-in-law is in bed with rheumatism. Words can hardly describe the conditions under which they live. But they had an open heart for the Gospel. My heart ached as I heard how often these little ones went to bed without their customary meal of brown bread and olives. My wife went out and came back with a bag full of groceries. I wish you could have seen the joy on the children's faces as their mother began to take out the things one by one. In half an hour they crowded round the table for a delicious dinner which was prefaced by a hearty prayer of thanksgiving. Let's pray that God will help them to surrender their hearts wholly to Him."

Haven't you often wished you could do that—spread a table for those in need? It is such a joy to watch the delight in little children's eyes when you provide a feast for their empty stomachs. At this season of joy and feasting here in America, let us add to our joys by sharing with others the bounties which God has provided for us. For only \$1.00 you can give 22 lbs. of food to a needy family. But spiritual food is a real necessity, too. \$10 will provide 40 New Testaments with which to bring the Bread of Life to the spiritually hungry in Greece. Christ fed men with both material and spiritual food. To us He says, "Feed my sheep." You may send your gifts through the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zodhiates, General Secretary, Dept. SL, P. O. Box 423, New York 36, N. Y. (In Canada: 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto, Ont.)

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Some Golden Daybreak

(Continued from page 3)

to support the beast. He will be the absolute tool of the first beast.

Seven verses give a summary of his work. Consider Revelation 13:

12-15:

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them

which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those

miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

Let us list the work of this evil one:

1. He will exercise the power of the Antichrist, and cause the world to worship the first beast.

2. He will perform great wonders and bring down fire from Heaven in the sight of men.

3. He will deceive earth-dwellers by means of his miracles.

4. He will cause the people to make an image of the beast. He will give life to the image and destroy all who will not worship the image of the beast.

And now, may we consider the closing three verses of Revelation 13.

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred and six score and six."

In the tribulation days it will be either worship the beast or starve. All men, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, will be forced to receive a mark in their right hands or in their foreheads. No one will be able to buy or sell without this mark. Those who would eat must bear the marks or the name or the number of the beast. "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred and threescore and six."

Many people have tried to figure out the meaning of this number, 666. The outstanding Bible teachers simply say that six is the number of man. It represents imperfection, for seven is God's number of perfection.

Dr. William R. Newell says that God will give full understanding to His saints in the tribulation when it is needed. The saints of the church age will not be there, but there will be tribulation saints who 'worship not the beast and receive not the mark.' They will know and understand this man. His number will be plain to them, for it is the number of a man.

Many people have tried to arrive at this mysterious number. It has been pointed out that the word Latin spelled with Greek letters, lateinos, makes six hundred sixty-six in their numerical value. Others have called attention to the same fact concerning Nero Caesar spelled in Hebrew—the numerical value comes to six hundred sixty-six.

But putting aside vain guesses, we know that six is the utmost reach of man. Man was created on the sixth day. God's great human opponents have been marked by the number six. Goliath was six cubits in height. His spear's head weighed six shekels, and he had six pieces of armor. Nebuchadnezzar's image was sixty cubits high and six broad. These are but a few of the sixes which attach themselves to men.

In connection with this number of the beast someone has said that it is interesting that the radio broadcasting wave length of Rome, Italy, is 666.

In the light of the tragic days ahead, there are two things we should do. First, we should rejoice in our own salvation and in the fact that we will escape the terrible things which are coming upon the earth. Second, we should endeavor with all our power to bring people to Christ so that they will be saved and escape the awful tribulation. This is the time to win people before the darkness settles upon the earth. We have darkness now, but not as it will be in that awful coming day.

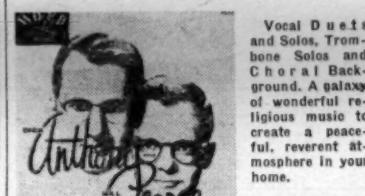
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The Presentation of First Fruits

(Continued from page 1)

verted people may have their sentimental natures thoroughly aroused by the dulcet strains of the organ or by the sweet singing of a trained choir. But this enjoyment does not necessarily imply that the spirit is worshiping God in reality. Our Lord Himself said to the Samaritan woman, "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

The highest worship is when the saint of God enters by faith into the holiest, passing through the rent veil and prostrating himself before the throne of the Eternal, there to gaze with adoring love and gratitude upon our blessed Lord Jesus Christ who now sits exalted on the Father's throne. There can be no true worship apart from our occupation with Himself. Outward observances may often hinder rather than help because there is ever the danger of distracting the mind, of fixing the attention upon some religious performance instead of on Christ Himself. It is when the spirit enters into the stillness, the quiet of God's own presence, there to be overwhelmed with a sense of the divine holiness and the divine love as manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we really worship.

And this is pictured for us very beautifully in these first eleven verses of Deuteronomy twenty-six. We read in verses one and two: "And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name there."

Observe this was something that could never be carried out in the wilderness, and certainly not in Egypt. God says, "When thou shalt come in unto the land." As a redeemed people, redeemed by blood and redeemed by power, dwelling in the inheritance which God had given them, the Israelites were called to observe this festival. No unsaved person, no one who is still in nature's darkness and in bondage to sin and Satan, no one who has not been washed from his sins in the blood of Jesus and raised up together and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ can be a true-worshiper. Men often speak of public worship, but this is a mistake. The public cannot worship. Worship is a very selective thing, and it is the glad privilege of those who are complete in Christ.

Now notice the form their service was to take. They were commanded to bring the first fruits of the land which the Lord had given them; to put it in a basket; and to go to the place where the Lord had chosen to set His name. How significant all this is. The first fruits speak of Christ, Himself, even as we read in I Corinthians 15:20: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." Again in verse twenty-three: "Christ the firstfruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming." The first fruits tell of the great harvest soon to be gathered in, even as a risen Christ has entered into the presence of God as our forerunner, the pledge of the ingathering when millions of the redeemed will be transformed and translated at the moment of His return.

The basket may well speak of our poor hearts, straitened indeed as we often are in ourselves, and yet in which Christ is pleased to dwell, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." We come to God with a heart filled with Christ, thinking of Him, praising Him, occupied alone with Him, rejoicing in Jesus Christ and having no confidence in the flesh. How God delights to see His people thus before Him.

I was trying to expound this passage some years ago and there was a dear little golden-haired girl present. On the way home she said to her father, "Daddy dear, I didn't have anything in my basket for the Lord today."

Thinking she had not under-

stood, the father said, "Well, Flossy, what do you mean?"

"I was so busy," she said, "going to school and playing, that I didn't put anything in my basket."

"You didn't?" the father asked, still not sure that she had understood.

THE SIN OF RESTLESSNESS

There is a restlessness and fretfulness in these days which stand like two granite walls against godliness. Contentment is almost necessary to godliness, and godliness is absolutely necessary to contentment. A very restless man will never be a very godly man, and a very godly man will never be a very restless man.

—D. L. Moody

"No," she said, and walked along silently for a few moments, and then said, "Daddy, I am going to have my basket full by next Sunday."

"How are you going to get it full?" her father asked.

"Every day," said the little one, "I am going to stop playing for a little while and think of Jesus, and I think by Sunday I will have it full."

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise" (Matt. 21:16). Yes, a heart filled with Christ; that constitutes a worshiper.

Of old there was only one place where the first fruits could be presented and that was at the place where God had set His name, where the tabernacle had been pitched, or later on, the temple built, and where He dwelt between the cherubim. Now it is to no earthly sanctuary we are invited to come, but the word is, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:19-22). Neither in Jerusalem, nor in some temple on a Samaritan mountain do we find God, but as a spiritual people, we enter in spirit into His immediate presence, and there present our first fruits.

Accompanied with the presentation, we have the confession as in verse three: "And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the Lord thy God, that I am come unto the country which the Lord sware unto our fathers for to give us." It was a recognition and an acknowledgment of the fact that there had not failed one word of all God's good promise. And so today as a worshiping company, we gladly confess that we have by faith entered into the inheritance which is ours in Christ.

The priest is another picture of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. We read, "The priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the Lord thy God" (vs. 4). It is our great High Priest who presents to God our worship and praises, and it is His perfection which alone can make our feeble adoration acceptable to the Father.

No thought of merit was to be in the mind of the Israelite and surely there can be none with us. We are saved by grace apart from works, and so have nothing of which to boast. Their confession was most abject:

A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous; And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. And when we cried unto the Lord God of our fathers, the Lord heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: And he

hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O Lord, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and worship before the Lord thy God." —Deut. 26:5-10.

What an acknowledgment was this that they owed every blessing to divine grace! They merited nothing, they purchased nothing, but all came to them through the wondrous lovingkindness of the Lord. And so in response to that matchless mercy, they brought the first fruits and set them down before Him, rejoicing in His presence because of all the good things He had lavished upon them. Shall we not emulate them this morning as we think of a nobler inheritance, a greater deliverance, and a more marvelous exhibition of divine grace than they ever dreamed of, all ours in Christ Jesus? Surely we can rejoice in Him today and offer the fruit of lips that confess His name.

II. The Sacrifice of Doing Good, of Ministering to Those in Need

But what about the needy all around us? The spiritually needy and the temporally need also? We have been blessed in Christ; and concerning earthly things, we are told, "He hath given us all things richly to enjoy." But at our very doors are those who know nothing of the grace of God revealed in Christ. All about us are those who are suffering for lack of the everyday mercies that mean so much to us. God has given us an example in His further commandment to Israel of what His pleasure is in regard to this. We read in verses 12 to 14:

"When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is

the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; Then thou shalt say before the Lord thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them: I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the Lord my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me."

Here was grace in activity; here was love manifested. Here was the kindness of God seen in His people as they ministered to the need of others. In Hebrews 13:16 we have the same thing where God says, "But to do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." He would not have those who have been so richly blessed forget the needs of others, and I am quite sure that no one who truly enjoys Christ can help telling of Him to men and women who are still strangers to His grace. And as we thank God today for the temporal mercies He has lavished upon us, our enjoyment will be the greater as we share these good things with those whose circumstances are not so agreeable as ours, passing on to them what will brighten their lives and gladden their hearts in the name of Him who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

You have heard of the old gentleman who was so pious that all through the church service he would sit with enraptured face looking up to Heaven, but when

they passed the collection plate he closed his eyes so as not to be disturbed in his meditation. Dear friends, spirituality is manifested just as truly in sharing with others what God has entrusted to us; whether it is making known the Gospel or giving to others that which would alleviate their distress. But whosoever seeth his brother in need and says, "Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (Jas. 2:16). You see, as priestly believers we are called upon to present our sacrifice of praise to God, and our sacrifice of giving to the world outside. May we truly enter into the responsibilities and the privileges of our priesthood, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be magnified.

(From the book, THE UNCHANGING CHRIST AND OTHER SERMONS, Loizeaux Brothers, Bible Truth Depot, 19 West 21st Street, New York City, New York. Published by permission.)

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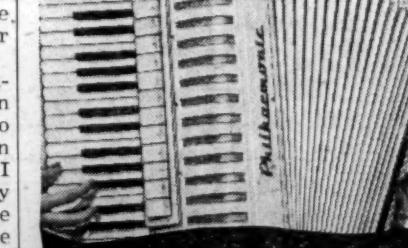
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(Continued from page 3)

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... Fig Tree Now Budding?

(Continued from page 2)

"sign" used here does not mean a token of some future event. It means a supernatural manifestation, a wonder, a marvel, a miracle. And what is this marvel? It is that "all the tribes of the earth . . . shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." The literal appearance of Jesus Christ coming from Heaven with

saints and angels, as described in Matthew 19, is the sign or marvel. That has not yet occurred. Verse 33 says, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." But nobody has seen the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory to take up His reign at Jerusalem. So the fig tree is not budding in the sense

of this Scripture.

But what does verse 31 say in this Olivet discourse of Jesus recorded in Matthew 24? "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Who are "his elect"? They are God's chosen nation, the Jews. They are the Israelites, the seed of Abraham, of which Romans 11:2 tells us, "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew." Individuals may be elected to some particular service and ministry to God. Only Israel is prophesied to be restored to their land. The elect here mentioned are the Jews.

What kind of a restoration of the Jews will this be? It will be a miraculous gathering, when God's own angels will gather all the Jews. With a great sound of a trumpet, this miraculous event will take every Jew from every country in the world and bring him to Palestine at once.

This has not occurred. According to the Scripture above, it will occur only "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (verse 29). So the things that are now occurring, to Israel and the world, are not "the budding of the fig tree" mentioned by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 24:32, 33.

Some years ago Editor Meldau of the *Christian Victory* magazine wrote twelve men whom he regarded leading Bible teachers in America the question as to whether the founding of the little nation Israel was the prophesied "budding of the fig tree" of Matthew 24. I had the honor of being included in the group. I was pleased to find that the big majority of those Bible teachers, including the beloved H. A. Ironside, said that the little nation Israel is not the prophesied budding of the fig tree and that the promised regathering of Israel is not now occurring.

II. Is the Regathering of Israel Foretold in the Bible Now Taking Place?

The Bible does plainly teach that God will regather Israel to their own land. But we must answer plainly that according to the Scriptures, the little nation Israel and the present work of Zionists and Jewish nationalists and the drift of refugee Jews back to Palestine now—these are not the restoration of Israel prophesied in the Bible.

That we will show by plain statements of the Scripture.

It is true that God promised Abraham that to his seed, the Jews, He would give the land of Palestine for an everlasting possession (Gen. 13:14-17; 17:6-8).

It is true that God promised David to establish a throne of David's kingdom forever, over the people of Israel (II Sam. 7:10-16).

And the Angel Gabriel plainly told the Virgin Mary of the Saviour, the son of the Highest, who should be born to her, that "the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32, 33). Yes, "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew" (Rom. 11:2). We are promised that one day all the Jews left alive on the earth shall be saved. "And so all Israel shall be saved:

(Continued on page 9)

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... Fig Tree Now Budding?

(Continued from page 8)

as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (Rom. 11:25, 26). So Abraham's descendants, the Jews, are to be returned to Palestine; Jesus, the son of David, is to sit on David's throne; the Jews left alive are to be converted.

Now let us state the question again. Is the gathering of Jews now in Palestine the fulfillment or the partial fulfillment of the prophecies of the restoration of Israel to their land? No, it is not.

Consider the following Scriptures:

Universal Regathering By Angels In Future

1. In Matthew 24:31, speaking of the returning Saviour, we are told, "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." But the Jews gathered by Zionists have not been gathered by angels. The present gathering was not accompanied by the great sound of a trumpet. It did not include all the Jews. The regathering now taking place is incidental, fragmentary, and natural. It is not the prophesied event, the complete, miraculous, and total regathering of Israel, which was prophesied in Matthew 24:31.

Israel to Turn to God at Christ's Return, Then Be Regathered

2. Consider Deuteronomy 30:1-6. This is one of the first and one of the clearest prophecies of the return of the nation Israel to Palestine. After a great discussion of the plagues and the captivity and the scattering that would come to Israel because of their sins, then God's Word tells of their restoration.

"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

Will you note certain facts made clear in this clear statement from the Word of God.

First, this restoration of Israel which is promised will occur when the Jews call to mind God's warnings and promises "and shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul." The prophesied restoration of Jews to Palestine will come after the Great Tribulation, as we are told in Matthew 24:29, when the Jews in their hearts turn to seek God. This does not necessarily mean that they will have been already saved, but they will be penitent and troubled and honestly seeking God and trying to obey God.

Second, verse 3 in this passage tells us that "then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will RETURN and gather thee from all the nations . . ." The Lord Himself will return. The regathering of Israel will be at the return of the Lord, not before. We do not mean at the rapture when Christ calls the saints out to meet Him in the air and takes us to Heaven. We mean when Christ Himself comes in con-

nection with the return and the reign of Christ.

Third, it is clear that the regathering will be a total regathering. "If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee." It will be a supernatural and a total regathering, this Scripture says. And then the Jews will be brought "into the land which thy fathers possessed," they are told.

Next, in connection with the same event will be the conversion of Israel, as we are plainly told that the Lord will circumcise their hearts.

That means that the partial return of a few unconverted Jews to Palestine, at present, is not the prophesied regathering which will be supernatural and total, will occur at the return of Christ in glory to reign, and will involve the conversion of the Jews.

Regathering of Israel to Be at Christ's Return and Reign

3. Consider also the plain prophecies in Isaiah 11. There we are told that Jesus, "a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch . . ." will come to reign during the millennium. Now read Isaiah 11:10-12, "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

Here we are plainly told that Jesus Himself will come, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people . . ." It will be at the time of Christ's coming when Israel will be regathered. Then He, Jesus, "shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." Note that this regathering, at the return of Christ, will be total; it will not be done by men, but will be done by God through His angels.

In His Days Judah Shall Be Saved . . ."

4. Many other Scriptures teach the same thing. Consider Jeremiah 23:5, 6, which tells us of the regathering of Israel at the return of Christ:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Again Scripture makes it clear that it will be when Christ returns to reign, as a Branch from David's roots, then "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely." The nation Israel will then be restored. So the Jews now in Palestine, and the small nation there called Israel, are not the fulfillment of the prophecies of the restoration of Israel.

Gathered From the Heathen When Christ Shall Be King Over Jews

5. Consider the promise in Ezekiel 37:21, 22. Several times in Ezekiel the regathering of Israel is mentioned. But these two verses, all part of one long sentence, tell us plainly that the regathering of Israel will be in con-

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

nection with the return and the reign of Christ.

"And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations,

neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all."

Further in the same passage verse 24 says, "And David my servant shall be king over them," referring to Jesus, Son of David, and the greater David.

Thus we safely conclude that the regathering of Israel which is prophesied in the Bible will occur after the rapture, after the tribulation, at the personal return of Christ to reign on the earth.

It will be a supernatural regathering, when Christ sends out His angels. It will be a total regathering with every Jew left alive on earth brought back to Palestine. The rebels will be purged out, the remnant will be saved. But that is not what has happened and what is happening today in Palestine.

Jesus In Heaven till "Times of Restitution" for Israel

Another Scripture which brings light on this question is in Acts 3:20, 21:

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Here we see that "the times of restitution of all things," which God has prophesied, which means the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant, the fulfillment of His covenant with David, the fulfillment of His promises about the reign of Christ, and the fulfillment of His promises about the restoration of Israel—these times of restitution will come only when Jesus returns. The Heaven must receive Jesus until the time

(Continued on page 10)

Immortality

As Recorded and Recited

By WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

If the Father deigns to touch the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn with divine power, and make it burst forth from its prison walls, will He leave, neglected in the earth, the soul of man, made in the image of His Creator?

If He stoops to give to the rosebush, whose withered blossoms float upon the autumn breeze, the sweet assurance of another springtime, will He refuse the words of hope to the sons of men, when the frosts of winter come? If matter, mute and inanimate, so changed by the forces of nature into a multitude of forms can never die, will the spirit of man suffer annihilation when it has paid a brief visit, like a royal guest, to this tenement of clay? No! I am as sure there is another life as I am that I live today.

In Cairo I secured a few grains of wheat which had slumbered for more than 3,000 years in an Egyptian tomb. As I looked upon them, this thought came into my mind: if one of those grains had been planted on the banks of the Nile the year after it grew, and if all its lineal descendants had been planted and replanted from that time until now, its progeny today would be sufficiently numerous to feed the teeming millions of the world.

There is, in a grain of wheat, an invisible something that has power to discard the body we see, and from earth and air, fashion a new body, so much like the old one, that we cannot tell one from the other; and if this invisible germ of life in the grain of wheat can thus pass, unimpaired, till 3,000 resurrections, I shall not doubt that my soul has power to clothe itself with a body, suited to its new existence, when this earthly frame has crumbled into dust.

Now since I have been converted, I am happier when I am unhappy than when I was happy before I was converted.

—Dr. John McNeil

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And we draw near to death;
But Christ the Lord recalls the dead,
With His almighty breath.

Madness, by nature, reigns within,
The passions burn and rage;
Til God's own Son, with skill divine,
The inward fire assuage.

We lick the dust, we grasp the wind,
And solid good despise;

Such is the folly of the mind,
'Til Jesus make us wise.

We give our souls the wounds they feel,

We drink the poisons gall,
And rush with fury down to hell—

—ISAAC WATTS

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NOT CHANGED BY THE WIND

Charles H. Spurgeon was talking to a farmer who had on his barn a weather vane, on the arrow of which was inscribed, "God is love." He said to the farmer, "What do you mean by that? Do you think God's love is changeable—that it veers about as the arrow turns in the wind?" To which the farmer replied, "Oh, no! I mean that whichever way the wind blows, God is still love." —Christian Digest

... Fig Tree Now Budding?

(Continued from page 9)

of restitution. So we need not expect the restoration of the nation Israel until it is "the times of restitution" of all things prophesied. When the nation Israel is regathered, it must be after the rapture when Christ comes to reign. Then will come the restoration of David's throne, the conversion of the nation, etc. These things have not occurred in the present small nation, Israel.

So the little nation in Palestine is not the fulfillment of Bible prophecies, with less than a million people, with only a fraction of Jerusalem itself, and perhaps a third of the smaller Palestine. It is not the restoration of Israel prophesied. It is not total. It is not after the tribulation. It is not connected with the return of Christ. Those who came back did not come back to find God. God may be doing some things in Israel but He is not yet fulfilling the prophecies about restoring Israel. So the fig tree is not budding and Israel is not yet restored.

III. Is the Nation Israel, Taking Up a Part of Palestine and Part of Jerusalem, a Sign of the End of the Age and the Soon Coming of Jesus Christ?

The answer to our third question, stated above, must be no. Nothing that now happens in Palestine is a sign that the end of the age approaches, a sign of the second coming of Christ. This is true for the following plain reasons:

Israel Not Sign of Christ's Coming Because Promised Regathering Has Not Yet Occurred

1. The little nation Israel is not the regathering of the Jews which was prophesied in the Bible. That was shown above. With less than a million people altogether, about as many as are in Minneapolis and St. Paul together or Dallas and Fort Worth together, less than the population of either Philadelphia or Detroit or Los Angeles, Palestine now has only a small fraction of the Jews in the world. But when Jesus comes and sends His angels out to gather every Jew, they will be miracu-

lously brought back to Palestine, all of them. The rebels will be purged out; all that are left alive will be converted; and Jesus will set up His kingdom. So what is now happening in Palestine has no prophetic significance. I simply mean that the little nation and what it is now doing are not prophesied in the Bible. It does not meet the description of the regathering of Israel so clearly prophesied in the Bible.

Since Christ Might Have Come at Any Time Since Pentecost There Could Be No Signs

2. There are no prophecies to be fulfilled before the rapture of the saints. It is quite clear from many, many Scriptures that Christians even in Bible times were taught to look for Jesus' coming. We are told how the Christians in Thessalonica "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven . . ." (I Thess. 1:9, 10). We learn that Paul expected to be alive when Christ should return, for he said, ". . . we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." And again he said, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air . . ." (I Thess. 4:15, 17).

Again Paul said that at the coming of Christ, "the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor. 15:52).

But Paul and the Thessalian Christians were only following the plain commands of Jesus often expressed that Christians should watch continually for His coming. In the Olivet discourse in that same twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew which we have been studying, in verse 42 Jesus said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Jesus was to be expected at any moment. No prophesied event was scheduled to come before the rapture of the saints, when Jesus should raise the Christian dead and change the Christian living, and catch them up together for the honeymoon in Heaven.

Since millions of Christians lived before the little Jewish nation was constituted on May 14, 1948, and all of them were taught in the Bible to expect Jesus' coming at any moment, it is clear that Jesus could have come before the nation Israel was formed and before this handful of Jews went back to Palestine under the Zionist movement.

No, the one great command of Jesus about the Second Coming is that we are to watch, to expect,

Prayer Plus

Once when D. L. Moody journeyed across the Atlantic there was a fire in the hold of the ship. The crew and some volunteers stood in line to pass buckets of water.

A friend said to Moody, "Mr. Moody, let us go to the other end of the ship and engage in prayer."

The common-sense evangelist replied, "Not so, sir; we will stand right here and pass buckets and pray hard all the time we are doing so."

How like Moody this was! He believed that prayer and work were like the two hands of the one person, in that they should never be separated.

to wait for Christ's coming, since no one can know that time.

It seems clear, therefore, if Jesus might have come at any time since Pentecost, for example, that no signs could be given that would mark or foretell the end of the age. There are some characteristics of the age which are given. Some things are prophesied to happen all through the age like wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes in divers places, etc. But those characteristics of the whole age are not signs of Christ's coming. They do not show the approaching end of the age, and Palestine events are not then a sign indicating the end of the age or the soon coming of Christ.

The Word "Sign" Never Refers to Any Preceding Evidence of Christ's Coming

3. But to suggest there are signs which will indicate the soon coming of Christ and the approaching end of the age, is to

wholly misunderstand the word "sign."

In this same Olivet discourse of Jesus, as given in Matthew, chapter 24, in verse 3 the disciples had asked the question, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" But "the sign of thy coming" simply means "the wonder, the marvel, the miracle, the supernatural manifestation of thy coming." That is what the Greek word means.

Therefore, we need not be surprised when in verses 29 and 30 we are told that "Immediately after the tribulation of those days . . . and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." The sign, the marvel, the wonder, the miracle, the supernatural manifestation was that people would actually see the Lord Jesus coming in power and great glory from Heaven. It is not that they would see some evidence ahead of time as to when Christ would come. That is not promised. The sign or miracle or wonder is the coming of Christ Himself, as we can plainly see from this passage. So when God talks about the sign of Christ's coming, He does not refer to some events, evidences and tokens given ahead of time to indicate the second coming of Christ or the end of the age.

The Question Discussed Was Not the Rapture But Events "After the Tribulation"

4. We must remember that what the apostles were asking Jesus was not for information about the rapture, but information about the later phase of the return of Christ to regather Jews and set up His kingdom. You see, Jews were properly concerned mainly about the restoration of their nation, the conversion of the Jews, the setting up of the Davidic kingdom, the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham, etc. The Old Testament is full of these themes. It is not surprising that even after the resurrection of Christ the apostles asked him in Acts 1:6, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" So here in Mat-

thew 24:3 after hearing that the buildings of the temple should be torn down, the disciples asked, "When shall these things be?" Here the prophecy and the question refer, no doubt, to the destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70 under Titus.

And the next two questions were, "And what shall be the sign [or wonderful manifestation] of thy coming [to set up the kingdom and reign on the earth after the tribulation], and of the end of the world?" That is, they wanted to know about the manifestation that would come at the end of this age, the times of the Gentiles, when the tribulation would be over, the Gentile kingdoms destroyed, and when Christ would come and set up His own kingdom at "the day of the Lord," so often foretold in the Old Testament.

Nothing in the question had to do with the rapture or things concerning the rapture.

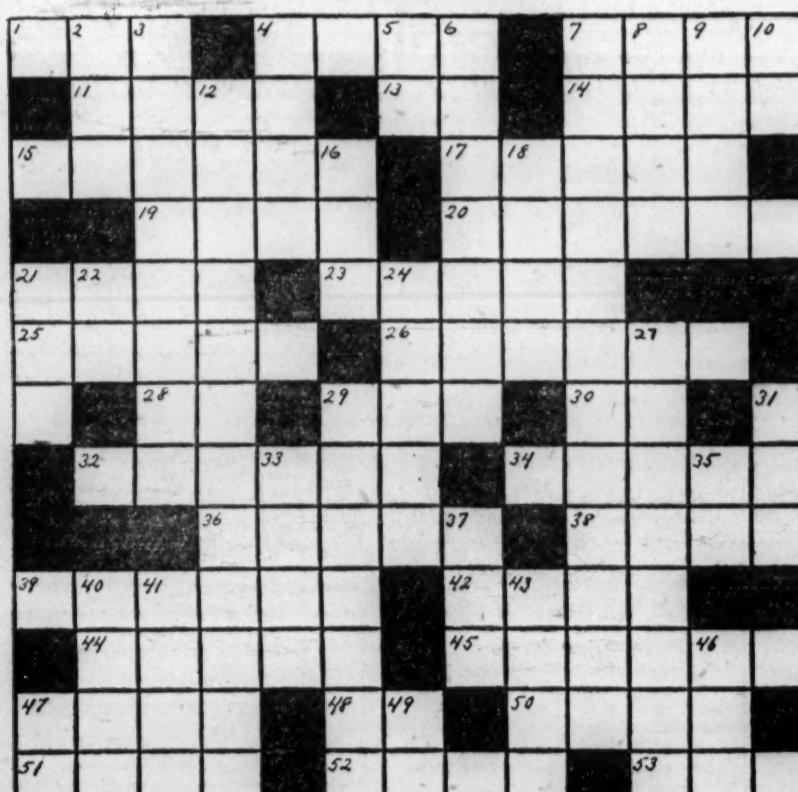
So we are not surprised when we read in verses 29 and 30 the answer: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." All this is "immediately after the tribulation." Then verse 31 says that Jesus "shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." So the regathering of Israel, like the public manifestation of Christ, will come after the tribulation time, long after the rapture, and they are not signs of the rapture; they follow the rapture and there could be no prophesied event ahead of time which would foretell the rapture.

So events in Palestine now have no prophetic significance. They do not indicate that the end of the age will come at any particular time, and they do not have any indication at all as to when Jesus may come. He may come before you read this article through. He may not come for hundreds of years.

(Continued on page 12)

You Can Be a Soul Winner

By Uncle Roger

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will receive a post card if your entry is correct. Incorrect entries will not be returned. SAVE THESE CARDS. THEY ARE IMPORTANT. When you have enough cards to receive the book of your choice, mail them to us. Please indicate the book or books that you desire. Previous selections are available. Remember that all of the selections do not require the same number of cards. The answer for Puzzle Number 47 will appear in the December 6 issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

The Scripture says in Daniel 12:3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Again Proverbs 11:30 says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Do you want to become a soul winner and experience the blessings described in these verses? Then be sure to get *The Soul-Winner's Fire*, a 127-page book, by Dr. John R. Rice. You will find it stimulating and a practical guide for the winning of souls. It is offered as one of the November selections and can be obtained with only three correct puzzle entries.

HERE ARE THE RULES. PLEASE READ THEM CAREFULLY.

1. Fill in the empty blanks according to the clews given. If you do not wish to cut up your copy of the paper, you may print the answers on a separate sheet of paper according to the clew numbers given. Answers must be complete and correct.

2. PRINT (not write) your name and address in the blank below the puzzle and mail to: UNCLE ROGER, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois. In order to have your entry counted correct, it must be postmarked by midnight, November 30, 1957. If your paper arrives after the deadline date, please send the answer and tell us the date that your paper arrived.

3. Each weekly entry will be checked, and you

Puzzle Number 47

(must be postmarked by midnight, November 30)

Clews Across

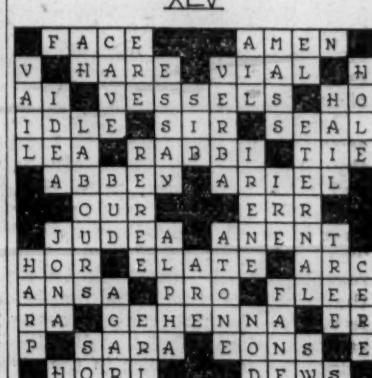
1. An insect
4. Approach
7. Not present or future
11. Spell "church" without the "ur."
13. A preposition
14. Tints
15. Happy
17. Slender threadlike outgrowths of an animal
19. A prophetess, eighty-four years old, who gave thanks when she saw Jesus (Luke 2:36-38)
20. A place in Moab (Isa. 15:8)
21. Mental faculties as in the phrase, "I am at my end."
23. Place in Crete near Fair Havens (Act 27:8)
25. Symbolical name for Jerusalem
26. Red ochre; ruddle
28. Red Cross (abbr.)
29. Months (abbr.)
30. Each (abbr.)
32. One of the seven churches in Revelation which had a name that she lived but was dead.
34. Without company
36. A note certifying sickness as an excuse
38. Rearrange the first four letters of the word "predicate."
39. A person who proves too strong for his assailant
42. A term applied to Jehovah (Hos. 2:16)
44. A kind of shark, rh—
45. Of or pertaining to a layman or the laity
47. A fisherman's hut, s—e—
48. "____ be or not ____ be"
50. Father of Eliasaph (Num. 3:24)
51. Rearrange "sana."
52. A cunning hunter in the Old Testament who had red hair
53. A full-length white linen vestment

Clews Down

2. Noncommissioned officer (abbr.)
3. The church in Revelation which was warned against allowing Jezebel to teach in her midst
4. A city of Hadarezer (I Chron. 18:8)
5. A Greek letter

Answer to Puzzle Number 45:

XLV



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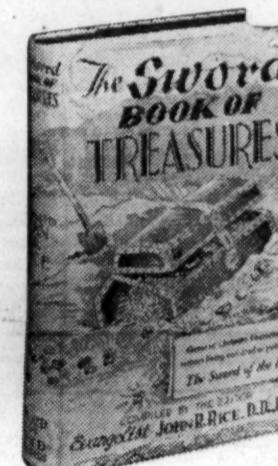
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... Fig Tree Now Budding?

(Continued from page 10)

of years. We do not know. Events now occurring cannot tell us when Jesus will come.

Christ's Coming Is Plainly Promised As Imminent, So Waits on No Sign

5. But one of the best ways we can know that events in Palestine now have no prophetic significance and are not signs that Jesus will come soon or that the age is about to end, is the fact that in this same passage Jesus very emphatically emphasized His coming was imminent, that no one could know when He would come.

In Matthew 24:36 He said, "But wherein the Son of man cometh."

of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." He warns that just as before the flood they went on with their regular manner of life "and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Then in verse 42 Jesus said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." And in the same passage, after the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus said in Matthew 25:13, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when He would come again,

We are plainly told that there is no way for anyone to know when Jesus will come. They were to watch and be ready at any moment. All the time since Jesus went away, and particularly since Pentecost, good Christians have been watching for Jesus' return. And it was always understood that He might come at any time, not waiting for any sign.

Bible Christians then did not need to wait for World War I nor for World War II nor for the rise of Communism. So also they obviously did not need to wait for the establishment of the little nation Israel, to look for Jesus to come.

If Jesus has plainly told that there would be no evidences, no indications by which people could tell when He would come again,

certainly then, the events in Palestine do not violate that rule which Jesus Himself gave. They do not indicate even approximately when Jesus will come. And we sin if we do not take His word for it that we are not intended to know and that we cannot find out when Jesus will come. His coming will be sudden, unexpected, and will not be preceded by any signs or evidences whereby we may know when He will come.

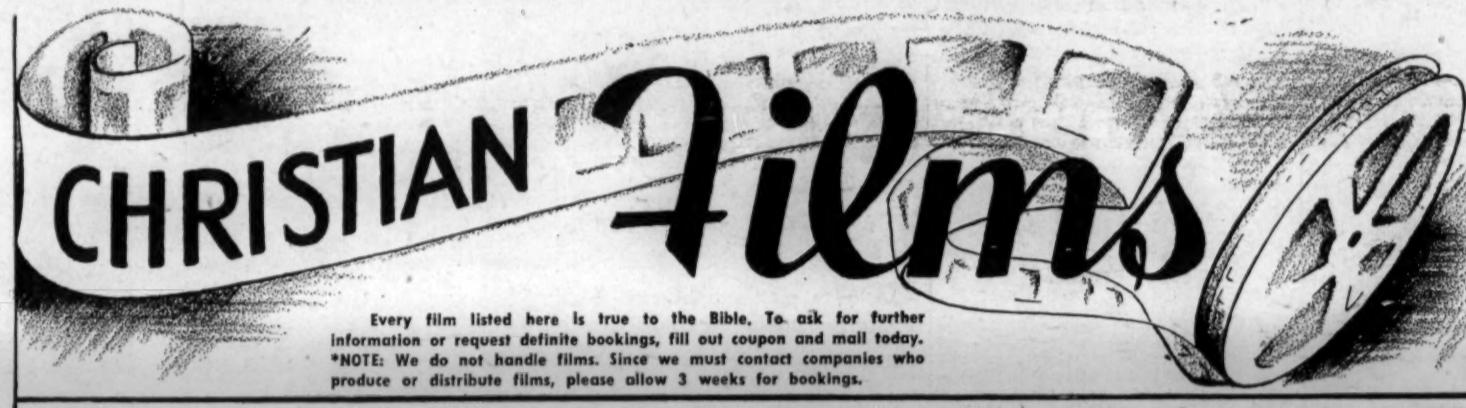
Now summing up the answers to our questions, we may say, first, that the existence of the small state of Israel in Palestine and the events there now occurring are not the prophesied "budding of the fig tree" which Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24:32, 33. Those events which are likened to the budding of the fig tree will

not occur, we are plainly told, until "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (Matt. 24:29).

The nation Israel and the Jews going back to Palestine now are not the fulfillment of the many prophecies about the regathering of Israel as foretold in the Bible.

Israel and the events in Palestine are not a sign of the end of the age, and they do not give any indication as to how soon Jesus might come.

I earnestly suggest that readers who are interested in detailed study of these matters get the book, *The Coming Kingdom of Christ*, 15 chapters, over 200 pages, beautifully clothbound with picture jacket, \$2.50, plus 15c postage.



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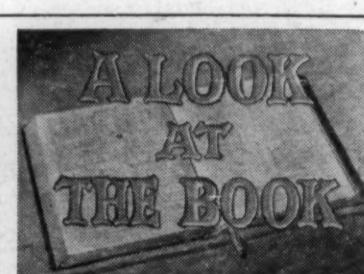
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